[4th August 1932

Education

Appointment of a retired gentleman as Secretary of the Board of Government Technical Examinations.

* 110 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state what the reasons are for reappointing a retired gentleman to the post of the Secretary of the Government Technical Examinations and retaining him for such a long time?

A.—It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the Secretary to the Commissioner for Government Examinations. The post of Secretary is a part-time and non-pensionable one with a small pay attached to it. Consequently it has been the practice to appoint retired officers to this post. The retention of the present incumbent is considered desirable as he is an officer of considerable experience and possesses a thorough knowledge of the details of the work of the office.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the gentleman who is holding the office is very old, that he retired long ago and that it is a scandal that the hon. Minister should patronize officers who do not deserve to be patronized and who are not qualified for the post?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"The answer to that is an emphatic negative."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Will the hon. Minister be pleased to let me know whether it is not necessary that there should be a permanent and whole-time officer holding this post instead of a part-time officer, in view of the importance of the post?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I do not think it is necessary."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I ask whether the Government do not consider this post as a very important one?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Yes; the duties of the post are carried on quite satisfactorily by a part-time officer."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister does not think that this post should be held by an honourable gentleman?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"The present incumbent is an honourable gentleman."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"Has the hon. Minister made any attempts to secure a person in the service of the Government to fill this post?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"A man in service would not take up a part-time post."